Projected Works.—Advertisements have been issued for tenders, by 17th instant, for rebuilding the Corn Exchange at Ipswich; by 10th December, for the work required to be done in building a new bridge of stone over the river Weaver at Frodsham, and making road approaches to same; by a date not specified, for the erection of the Deptford Literary Institution; by 15th inst., for the works to be done in erecting and completing a dispensary and dwelling-house adjoining the Ratcliff workhouse; and by 12th, for shifting 25,000 cubic yards of spoil on the Monkland Canal.

Improvement of Dwellings in Lambeth.—The Lambeth Anti-Cholera Dwellings' Improvement Committee have issued an advertisement, calling on all concerned in raising the status of the poorer classes to aid, by contributions, the good work they have in hand, namely, the expense of forwarding a Bill in Parliament for the improvement of dwellings for the labouring classes, of adopting measures for the obtainment of a cheap, pure, and abundant supply of water for the whole parish, and of baths and washhouses for the poor. We trust that the success of this appeal will give such an impetus to these cognate objects as will not only lead to the complete fulfilment of them in the present instance, but render it an example to the whole country as the rudiment of a complete domiciliary and sanitary reform. A draft of the proposed Dwelling Improvement Bill has been forwarded to us. It would authorize the parish and union authorities to construct, or hire, whenever needed, by means of the parish rates, proper dwellings for the labouring population, and to devote the profits thereof to the parish funds and the diminution of the poor-rate. It stipulates that each dwelling shall possess an abundant supply of pure water, a decent wholesome water-closet, and every other essential accommodation, at a specified list of charges; such as 1s. 6d. a week for a single room 12 feet square and 9 feet high, &c. In the preamble, the object of thus and otherwise making the people a healthful, orderly, contented, and peaceable community is held up to view as one reason for the Act, and the consequent decrease of workhouses, infirmaries, hospitals, &c., might have been equally dwelt on as another. The suggestion that parishes should obtain the power of providing such dwellings originated, we believe, in our pages.

An Enormous Chimney has been erected for the Counterslip Sugar Works, Bristol. According to the newspapers, and which our own observation of the work in progress leads us to believe correct, the foundation of the stack is about 25 feet square, with piles driven to a depth of 20 to 25 feet from the level of the ground, the 5 feet nearest the surface being a bed of concrete, about 23 feet square. The diameter of the stack at the bottom is 20 feet; and it tapers gently to a height of over 200 feet, the diameter at its summit being 4 feet 8 inches. In the construction of the stack 220,000 bricks were used, and the entire weight of the mass on the piles is 580 tons. "With such almost unprecedented nicety," adds our authority, "has the stack been constructed, that the final trial with the plumb did not show a deviation of an eighth of an inch from the true perpendicular." It may be useful, however, to add to this account a notice of the circumstance that this is the second time the chimney has been put up; the work failed on the first occasion before it was quite finished, and was taken down, of course at no small cost. This disastrous accident was ascribed, we believe, mainly to the prevalence of wind and rain from one quarter; we should ourselves rather attribute it to the fact that no architect was employed.

Abergavenny Lunatic Asylum.—In the provincial notes of the last number but one of your widely-circulated paper appeared a notice of the above building, and since that time I have been inundated with letters and prospectuses from various tradesmen; but as your notice merely said *Monmouth*, without describing the town in which the building is being erected, I shall feel obliged if you will take an early opportunity of stating that it is being built at Abergavenny. The building is to be in the Early English style, and to accommodate the pauper lunatics of four counties, viz., Monmouth, Radnor, Hereford, and Brecon.

H. R.

The Kenilworth-street Sewer Question.—Dr. Playfair has issued a supplementary report on his part, reiterating his results not only without any retractation, but strengthened by the statement that he is supported in these results by "several of the most eminent chemists in London, among whom," he says, "I may mention Professors Graham and Williamson, as well as Dr. Hoffman, of the Royal College of Chemistry." Dr. Ure has thus arrayed against him a somewhat formidable evidence, amongst whom he himself before enumerated the two Government chemists, and the two chemists of King's and University Colleges. Dr. Playfair appears good-naturedly to suggest that Dr. Ure's experiments may be strictly accurate, if the sewer water used in his experiments were taken "from the open trench, where plenty of gas lime had fallen in;" but Dr. Ure repudiates that idea in a new report since issued, in which he appears to have lost all temper, and complains that he has been exposed to "a tempest of passion, prejudice, and invidious contradiction," and "vulgar vituperation," &c., and not very obscurely insinuates that the sewer has been tampered with, as, in three specimens taken for further verification of his results, he finds that the prussic acid, "the witness he (the tamperer) intended to destroy, exists no longer indeed in the fluid," but has been found in the mud, in the shape of inert Prussian blue, so that "the wicked is snared in the work of his own hands." This is a serious charge, if seriously entertained and regarded. Dr. Ure even specifies copperas as the precise form in which the iron and sulphur destroying the poison has been thrown into the sewer. There seems to be a less odious way of accounting for the presence of iron and sulphur in the mud of a sewer, and especially of the Kenilworth sewer, than this, even granting that the poisonous hydrocyanic acid did exist in the fluid, and above all, in the gaseous, sewage (for this latter, be it ever recollected, *is the* question after all, and hence we presume no one ever had yet thought of groping in the mud for neutral inert and destroyed poison). But it is not for us to reply to such a charge. We only could not think of affording the influence of our circulation to the naked propagation of such a charge against any man, even in the meantime, without something like a reasonable or charitable qualification, which we do not find in Dr. Ure's report, while yet we have not Dr. Playfair's own defence or reply. One thing is clear, however, namely, that Dr. Ure himself admits that the sewage water does not now contain *any* prussic acid or other poisonous compound of cyanogen. And as for the mud, the compounds now alleged by Dr. Ure to have been found in it are admittedly not poisonous either. The source of these latter compounds, if they do exist, is of course still an open question.

Compensation, Spitalfields. — *Hyde and Co.* v. *Commissioners of Woods.*—On the 31st ult. a writ of inquiry was entered into at the Sheriff's Court, Red Lion-square, London, to estimate the amount of compensation to which the plaintiffs, Messrs. Hyde, solicitors, of Ely-place, Holborn, were entitled to, for the loss of a piece of freehold land and two houses, situated in Vine-court, Spitalfields. The premises were required by the Commissioners for the completion of the new street leading from Spitalfields Church to Shoreditch. The only question in the case was one of value: the plaintiffs claimed 1,200*l.*, the defendants offered 400*l.* Evidence was adduced on the part of the plaintiffs, from which it appeared that the property had been let on lease to a greengrocer for the term of forty years, which expired at Midsummer in the present year, at a rent of 30*l.* per annum, and some time before the expiration of the lease Mr. Chapman, the tenant, offered to take a new lease at an advanced rent of 40*l.* a-year. Mr. Todd, builder, and Mr. Nelson, architect, proved that the property was worth 1,200*l.* (the freehold of the land included), allowing 120*l.* for the old materials, as a site for stables. The Attorney-General, in behalf of the Commissioners, contended that the property was not worth more than 420*l.* He did not call any witnesses. The jury gave 850*l.*

Australian Copper.—Ten tons, the first ever smelted in Australia, were sold at Sydney, some time since, at 81*l.* per ton.

Taormina and Mola, from the Ancient Theatre.—Mr. W. Linton's picture of Ætna and Taormina, painted for Mr. Richard Ellison, of Sudbrooke Holme, has been lithographed by Mr. F. W. Hulme, we suppose for publication. Mr. Linton delights in classic scenery, and ever treats it with power and beauty. His great merits are scarcely so widely recognized as they deserve to be. The ancient city of Taormina was one of the three most renowned in Sicily during the classic ages. Aqueducts, baths, cisterns, a gymnasium, a stadium, and naumachia, with sepulchres, and mosaic pavements, the ruins of temples, porticoes, and piazzas, are among the numerous remains which evidence its ancient splendour. Many of our readers know the beauty of the scene. The proscenium of the theatre constitutes the principal object in the foreground with its arches and broken columns. "It is encrusted," says Mr. Linton, "with white marble, as were the benches of the coilon. The plan of the theatre is Greek, and the Greek inscriptions which have been discovered on some of the broken seats are evidence of its having been originally built by those colonists. It was afterwards rebuilt and subsequently restored by the Romans, as its remains testify." Mr. Hulme has transferred it to stone with great delicacy. If we offered any objection, it would be that the parts in shadows are too dark, and contrast too cuttingly with the remainder, suggesting the idea that the latter has yet to be worked up, and therefore giving the effect in some degree of incompleteness.

Birmingham Baths and Washhouses.—The foundation-stone being laid on Monday week, by the Mayor, at the site in Kent-street, Bromsgrove-street, a *déjeûner* took place in the evening, when the Mayor, in congratulating the friends of the institution on the event of the morning, remarked that he hoped that at no distant day the other part of the arrangement for the recreation of the working classes would be carried out. There was the park at Aston, with a classic building, associating with it the idea of Hampton Court. Then there were the parks of Edgbaston, and Soho, at Handsworth, which were exceedingly desirable for such an object. The Rev. J. C. Miller followed in an exemplary clergyman's speech, in which he observed that they had heard much said about the new gaol and lunatic asylum, and also about the new poor-house. Now, unquestionably, all these buildings were accounted necessary, and yet with all of them some painful or melancholy feeling was connected. But he thought that scarcely any painful feeling could be associated with the event of that morning. Then, with regard to the bearing of the undertaking on the moral character of the people of Birmingham, he believed it was a matter of no slight importance to turn a dirty man into a clean one. He believed that so long as our poor were in a state of squalid filth, and their houses wretched, we might use our religious appliances and our police appliances, but we should use them to a great extent in vain. He had no great hope of a man so long as his person was dirty, and he revelled in filth; and whatever induced him to cleanse his skin and cleanse his clothes was an important aid to the minister of religion.

Fall of Mooltan Fort in a War of the Elements.—This renowned fortification, which, with all its bomb-proof dependencies, so long withstood the cannon ball showers of Britain, has been razed to the ground by the still more potent showers of Nature's ordinance—the soft and simple rain, which, pouring down in torrents, and rushing on in floods, till building after building fell before it in rapid succession, has reduced the fort to a mere defenceless ruin. The river Chenaub at length covered the whole country during the moonsoon, and has everywhere done much damage.

Chancel Dilapidations.—We are obliged by your frequent notes respecting builders' differences, but it is a pity to let surveyors altogether escape. In central Norfolk a valuation has recently been made of clerical chancel dilapidations by three persons, to the following effect:—

An architect from Norwich	£303	1	10
Ditto from Cambridge	130	0	0
Ditto from Lynn	74	9	0

There would seem to be want of knowledge somewhere.

N.

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